

Appl. No. 10/633,072

Reply to Office Action of December 20, 2005

REMARKS

In the December 20, 2005 Office Action, claims 24-34 were rejected, and claims 1-23 were allowed. This Response amends claims 1, 14, and 25 to correct minor typographical errors (these amendments are not related to patentability, do not change the scope of the original claims, and the full scope of equivalents has been maintained for the amended claims). After entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-34 remain pending in the application, with no additional claim fees due. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 24-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Dickerson et al., USPN 6,674,781 (hereinafter “Dickerson”). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, while preserving the right to overcome Dickerson with a showing under 37 C.F.R. §1.132 or under 37 C.F.R. §1.131.

Dickerson generally discloses a system and method for refueling a COIL device that is powered by singlet delta oxygen. Notably, the Dickerson system and method produces singlet delta oxygen via a gas-liquid reactor that processes gaseous hydrogen peroxide and a liquid solution that is rich with LiOCl. Both the gaseous hydrogen peroxide and the LiOCl-rich liquid are by-products of the COIL device, and these by-products are regenerated by the Dickerson system and method. Simply put, the Dickerson system and method does not utilize, process, or regenerate a solid fuel.

Applicant’s independent claim 24 recites a solid generator laser having a fuel supply system that is configured to retain a solid fuel and a gaseous fuel. Claim 24 also recites a laser generator and optics module that receives the solid and gaseous fuels, produces laser light from the solid and gaseous fuels, and generates waste products therefrom. As explained above, Dickerson does not teach the use of any solid fuel. Moreover, Dickerson does not suggest the use of any solid fuel. Consequently, Dickerson does not disclose each and every limitation of claim 24.

For at least the above reasons, independent claim 24, and claim 25, which depends from claim 24, are not anticipated by Dickerson. Therefore, Applicant requests the withdrawal of the §102(e) rejection of claims 24 and 25.

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Applicant's independent claim 26 recites a method of operating a solid generator laser. Claim 26 requires the step of providing a solid fuel and a gaseous fuel to the laser. Claim 26 also requires the step of processing solid and gaseous portions of waste products to regenerate the solid and gaseous fuels. In contrast, Dickerson does not teach or suggest the processing, use, or regeneration of any solid fuel. Consequently, Dickerson does not disclose each and every limitation of claim 26.

For at least the above reasons, independent claim 26, and claims 27-33, which variously depend from claim 26, are not anticipated by Dickerson. Therefore, Applicant requests the withdrawal of the §102(e) rejection of claims 26-33.

Applicant's independent claim 34 recites a solid generator laser system. Claim 34 recites means for providing a solid fuel and a gaseous fuel to the laser. Claim 26 also recites means for processing solid and gaseous portions of waste products to regenerate the solid and gaseous fuels. In contrast, Dickerson does not teach or suggest any such means for providing or processing any solid fuel. Consequently, Dickerson does not disclose each and every limitation of claim 34.

For at least the above reasons, independent claim 34 is not anticipated by Dickerson. Therefore, Applicant requests the withdrawal of the §102(e) rejection of claim 34.

In conclusion, for the reasons given above, all claims now presently in the application are believed allowable and such allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions or wish to further discuss this application, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at (480) 385-5060.

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If for some reason Applicants have not requested a sufficient extension and/or have not paid a sufficient fee for this response and/or for the extension necessary to prevent abandonment on this application, please consider this as a request for an extension for the required time period and/or authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 50-2091 for any fee which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

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